Easter Holidays in Crete.

Courrier des Etats Unis. For the Cretans, as for all Christians of the Orthodox Church, Easter is the greatest religious tes tival of the year. It is also a joyous testival, for it fills stomachs famished by a fast of forty eight days. During that period he who desires to follow the rules of the Church strictly must abstain not only from meat, but also from milk, eggs and fish, and must content himself with bread, olives and

At present it is true that people generally do not fast so long, especially in the cities, where, instead of observing eight weeks of Lent, they fast only the first and last week. But in Crete they ad. here, practically everywhere, to the observance of the whole fast. It is therefore very natural that the Cretans should long for the feast of Easter, which not only elevates their souls, but, in addition, permits them to strengthen their bodies, after long abstinence, by healthful and agreeable nourishment.

According to the custom of the country, roast lamb is the first dish with which the fast is broken. That is why throughout Holy Week the towns and villages reecho with plaintive bleats and the tinkling of bells that hang from the necks of the white victims coming from the mountains, Each father of a family is eager to buy a lamb. After the purchase of the animal the dyeing of the eggs and the preparation of the Easter loaves begin. The latter are round, and before being put into the oven are garnished with red eggs and sprinkled with sesame.

At last the long-wished-tor Easter Saturday arrives. Everybody puts on his finest summer clothes, for spring comes early in these quarters. About the end of February a carpet of verdure, delightfully bordered with daisies, anemones, covers the island; the air is filled with dainty fragrant perfumes, a diaphanous light bathes in its white brilliancy the undulating hills and the distant mountains, while the plittering sea reflects the colors of the rainbow. At midnight everybody goes to church to hear mass and celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Men, women and children, each carrying a candle, enter the church, which is shrouded in a semi darkness penetrated only by the scattered and feeble light of a few lamps, which add to the mysterious charm of the ceremony and to its impressive our sun, In the star in Androsolemnity. It is the idea of death | meda to which allusion has been and grief that is expressed by this veil of darkness which is spread through the church. But what a stirring contrast is the sudden brightness that bursts from a thousand lights when the priest, passing estial universe, an orange, emerald his candle to his attendants, pro- and sapphire diamond! Another nounces the formal words, "Christ | very beautiful colored double star | CHARLES CLASS is risen from the dead!

It is life, then, that enters in great torrents of light, and it is joy that fills the hearts and illuminates the countenances. The moment is impatiently awaited by those remaining outside the building, who then fire off guns. Let the reader remain calm; it is simply a manifestation of glee. The Cretan knows no better way to express his joy. He greets with gunshots the return of a relative, the marriage of a brother or the arrival of a young married couple in town. Why should he not "make powder speak," with still greater ardor, to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord?

So it is a veritable battle fire that breaks out in front of the church and it continues until the end of the mass. The boys take part in this exercise with the vivacity characteristic of the Greek youth.

There are some who even discharge guns inside the church, and in order to make the detonation the louder they use wads of hemp. Not infrequently this juvenile exuberance causes more or less seri ous wounds. Atter mass all go home, and for

a week afterward "Good day" and "Good morning" gives way to the form "Christ is risen!" As they say this friends and acquaintances

kiss each other. The greater part of Sunday is devoted to the pleasures of the table. There are two meals, the first in the morning, the second at noon. The principal dish is always if about to surrender. Suddenly a lamb. At the end of the dinner a large plate of red eggs is brought in, but not immediately eaten; the egg battle must first take place. Each one chooses an adversary and knocks his egg against his adversary's egg. Happy is he whose egg proves the stronger; he is the victor and has the right to eat both eggs. From time to time the pistols and guns are seized and shots are gaily fired out of the window. Of course this overflowing joy is not relished by passersby. On Sunday afternoon the people go to church again to hear the gospel and to take part in the execution of Judas.

The scene of this spectacle is the public square. A straw man, fantastically dressed, and hung from a gibbet; represents the unfaithful disciple. His feet are first set on fire. His trousers are filled with firecrackers, and at each explosion he throws his legs into the air. The grotesque antics of the traitor are greeted with great outbursts of laughter. When at last the flame reaches Judas's long beard, and his head shrivels up, the popular joy is at its highest pitch. Continuous laughter and frantic cries burst forth, while pistol shots resound

till the last flame dies out. On Monday the people are already calmed. The lamb has been eaten, the powder supply has been exhausted, Judas has been burned, and the Cretans indulge their softer passions, In the early morning city folk and villagers go to the country, mounted on asses and mules, which in this island take the place of railroads and carriages. Generally three or four families unite for a picnic and load France has the most miles of cable, KEYSTONE LAGER BEER BREW. a mule with plenty of provisions for the day. The afternoon is given up to rural games and amusements, games of quoits are played, and jumping and running contests take place.

A,603; Germany comes next, with 2,052; Great Britain and Ireland have 1,778 miles, with a British India system embracing 1,955 miles; Italy, 1,063 miles, and Spain has 1,737 miles.

Double Stars M. Camille Flammarion, in the "Bulle. tin de la Societe Astronomique de

France.

of them takes but a little more than

hve of our years to complete its

sidereal revolution. From this the

orbits run up to nearly two centuries. There is in the constellation

Andromeda, however, a star visi-

ble to the naked eye which the

smallest telescopes show to be

double. Seen through a powerful

instrument, it is found to be triple.

One of these suns turns

around another in fifty-four years,

and these two turn about the third.

This last revolution it has as yet

if it proceeds at the same rate at

which it has gone on since 1777,

for the first time, the revolution

It would be a mistake to classify

to consider them as a separate class

of the same mass, the same light,

the same temperature, the same

relative age, as, for instance, the

star in Virgo, which has been de-

scribed, and most of the stars

whose orbit has been calculated.

Others show us an enormous sun,

around which gravitates a much

smaller star, as, for instance, Sir-

ius. In other cases we have a sun

with an obscure star, the existence

of which is known only by its eclip-

sing its companion, thus making

One of the most remarkable

characteristics of the double stars

is the admirable colors which a

number of them disclose through

the telescope. It is next to impos-

sible to give any idea of the beauty

of these colors by any process of

painting. To do that you would

have to dip your brush in the rain-

bow and have for a convas the cel-

estial azure itselt. It is to be re-

marked that the stars whose orbits

are smallest do not present the

same fine complementary colors as

those whose orbits are longer. In

general, both of the stars of those

which make the most rapid revo-

lution are yellow. Astronomers

have inferred that in the systems

with pale and analogous colors,

the masses are the strongest.

other green, while the third is blue.

What a splendid jewel in the cel-

is in the constellation Cygnus of

the Swan, a star which the small-

est instruments show to be double.

low and lucid sapphire. *

The colors here are a golden yel-

If the worlds of Mars, Venus,

Jupiter, or Saturn differ so consid-

erably from the world we inhabit,

although they are enlightened and

fertilized by the same sun, how

much more must these distant

we are acquainted? In [repard to

these we can repeat, with even

more truth than in any other case,

earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamed of in your philosophy

SPANISH PRIDE.—Spanish pride

s proverbial. An incident in the

life of Lord Cochrane, the Earl of

Dudenald, is illustrative, says an

English paper. Lord Cochrane,

in command of a little brig, the

Speedy, in broad daylight, cap-

tured the Spanish frigate, the Gamo. The Speedy carried a crew

of fifty men and threw a broadside

of 28 pounds of metal; the Gamo a

crew of 300 men and a broadside

of over 100 pounds. The Speedy

had previously, through a ruse,

escaped from a large Spanish ship

in the night, and some of her offi-

cers rather criticised the action of

her captain on the occasion-in

that he did not make an effort

to capture the Spaniard. This

made Cochrane mad. So when

the enemy came up he hove to, as

puff of wind carried him alongside.

He grappled and boarded. The

Speedy lay so low her opponents

were unable to depress their guns

sufficient to hit her, while the

Englishman made every shot tell.

The boarders, after stout opposi-

tion, carried the enemy. When

the action was over the Spanish

captain requested some certificate

which he had fought the ship. He received one: "This is to certify

that Captain-, of the Spanish

frigate Gamo, fought his issue like a true Spaniard!" The defeated

gentleman was greatly pleased, and

so was the nation, for on returning

home he was immediately given

another and more important com-

SUBMARINE CABLES.—Scarcely

twenty-five years ago the cable

was a factor of neither peace nor

war. Now it plays a part of large

worth in both. An estimate of

either is almost impossible, but

easily imagined from the immense

amount of space given it in the

papers each day. To-day there are 310 private cable lines, with a

total mileage of 139,754 miles, by

means of which the large cities and

capitals of every civilized country

on the globe are connected with

each other. Many of these lines

are owned by corporate bodies,

which conduct the business for

commercial purposes, but a large

number of others are owned by the

various governments and entirely

controlled by them. There are

994 such national lines, having a

total length of 18,132 miles.

the words of Shakespeare:

the latter a variable star.

must extend to 360 centuries!

JOHN JOS. ALTER, President GEORGE RIEGER, See'y and Treas CHAS, F. SCHOENING, Gen. Man. So far there have been discov ered about 115,000 double s ars, of which the orbits of but twenty-five

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have been calculated. The length BREWERS AND MALTSTERS of these orbits varies greatly. One

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of heavenly bodies. They are of various kinds. Some are two suns J. F. BETZ & SON

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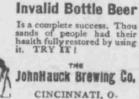
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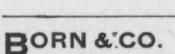
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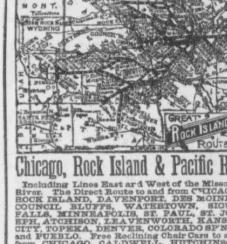
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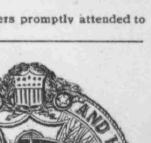
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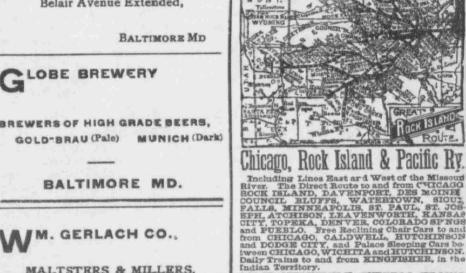
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